

**REGULAR MEETING  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 9, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.  
TRIBAL OFFICE BOARDROOM**

1. Chairperson Laurie Boivin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with a quorum present. MEMBERS PRESENT: Laurie Boivin, Regina Washinawatok, Sabrina Hemken, Jeremy Weso, Kathy Kaquatosh and Susan Waukau. MEMBERS ABSENT: Ben Kaquatosh (excused). Also present: Francis Walker, Roberta Robinson, Kim Oshkeshequoam, Freida Bergeon, Denise Pommer, Brett Hoffman and Linda Peters, recorder.

2. Moment of Silence. A moment of silence was observed.

3. Approval of Minutes dated September 11, 2008.

**Motion made by Regina Washinawatok to approve the minutes dated September 11, 2008. Second was by Susan Waukau. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions (Hemken and Weso –not present) and 1 absent (B. Kaquatosh).**

4. General Council motion to reinstate the Elder's Council

Denise Pommer gave a brief summary on the history of the COA (Commission on Aging) and the Elder's council. Upon review of the past minutes and bylaws, both committee's assisted our elderly community. The Elder's council was an advisory council at its inception. The COA's bylaws were specific in their duties and responsibilities. Both committees have held summits. The current COA board members are all native with one non-native board member. (Ms. Pommer's report is attached).

The Tribal Constitution states the powers of any legislative committee are limited to: 1) to investigate, 2) to recommend and 3) to advise. There is a standing motion that all legislative committees meet in the Tribal Office Boardroom whereas the COA can meet in various sites on the Reservation. The COA has more authority and can reach the whole Reservation/County and they should continue as is. The COA assists the elders and also the handicapped. The COA has access to the Health and Family Committee to address any concerns.

The General Council motion dated January 19, 2008 requested the Menominee Tribal Legislature to reinstate the Elders Committee. It was assigned to the Governmental Affairs Committee to address and the committee needs to recommend passage or not to pass and why.

Resolution #87-32 was passed to comply with the requirements of Title III (Bay Area Agency on Aging) due to statutory/regulatory changes that were made.

COA has a set of by laws, membership requirements and enumerated powers of the COA. It has been in existence for the past 11 years and it has been effective. If the elder's council is re-established, then Resolution #87-32 would need to be reviewed and then restructure the COA bylaws and duties. This would affect the financial aspect of the Tribe. The Tribe would not be able to fund the elder's program.

Frieda Bergeon informed the committee that she has spoken to some of the elders in the community and they would work for free. She has never seen printed minutes, agenda, elder abuse person's duties and responsibilities. She suggested printing the COA minutes and agenda in the tribal newspaper to reach everyone. The Menominee tribe was the first tribe to form an elder council and other Tribe's followed suit.

Denise Pommer informed the committee that the COA minutes and the agenda's could be printed in the newsletter that is provided to the elderly.

Susan Waukau informed the committee that the COA agenda's are posted at South Branch, Neopit, Menominee County, Tribal Clinic, the FIC Building and Tribal Administration. The meetings are open. The Legislature represents the elders in Washington. In the past, there was very little response to attend the COA meetings or submit a letter of interest to represent the committee.

The Tribe cannot afford to fund an elder's committee. The COA has representatives in each village and each representative need to reach out to the elderly/handicapped individuals in their respective areas. The majority of our elderly do not attend monthly meetings but COA representatives will answer your questions when asked.

The elders' council served their purpose at its inception and for the last 11 years the COA has been doing their job, posted their agenda. If the representation is an issue, the COA can delegate individuals to attend.

There is nothing prohibiting the COA coming to the Health and Family Committee or to the Legislature for any concerns. The COA is a creation of the Tribe and is a recognized entity.

**Motion made by Jeremy Weso to recommend to the Legislature that they not reinstate the elders council for the following reasons: 1) It will be a duplication of COA responsibilities, 2) COA provides adequate representation of our tribal members and non tribal for Menominee Reservation/Menominee County, 3) COA is an entity of the Menominee Indian Tribe, 4) COA does conduct regular meetings, post notice of those meeting provide minutes of those meetings and 5) COA does have access to the Health and Family service committee and to the Menominee Tribal Legislature thru the May, 2008 amendment to Ordinance #95-04. Second was by Kathy Kaquatosh. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 5 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 1 absent (B. Kaquatosh).**

5. Discussion/Recommendations on Amendment to Ordinance 03-17 Debt Collection Ordinance.

The committee reviewed the final copy for approval. The language on page 3, last sentence, first paragraph "the list of debtors shall be provided to all Tribal employees or agents who need the information in order to comply with this Ordinance". Brett Hoffman gave the example that if Land Use or Housing need to review the bad debt list to ascertain eligibility requirements, the language is there.

MTE wanted to get tribal members on the list, but the Tribe is the first party to capture any monies and it would defeat their purposes of collecting on money owed to their entity.

This ordinance is a tool to make it easier for tribal departments to administer this ordinance. Mr. Hoffman informed the committee that the tribal debt was close to one million dollars a couple of months ago. This figure includes child support, land leases, loan fund, and housing. This does not include tribal courts, utilities, day care or the tribal clinic. This figure also does not figure ALL DEBT. This is only the bad debt classification.

Mr. Hoffman will provide a white paper at the Public Hearing for more clarification on the amount that is owed to the tribe.

**Motion made by Regina Washinawatok to move the Menominee Nation, Menominee Tribal Legislature amendments to Ordinance 03-17 (Debt Collection) onto the Legislature for 1<sup>st</sup> consideration. Second was by Susan Waukau. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 5 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 1 absent (B. Kaquatosh).**

6. Property Management Policy: Discussion/Recommendations.

The committee will give Brett Hoffman their suggestions and he will bring back this document when ready for presentation.

**Motion made by Kathy Kaquatosh to table item # 6 – Property Management Policy. Second was by Jeremy Weso. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 5 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 1 absent (B. Kaquatosh).**

**Motion made by Kathy Kaquatosh to recess this meeting until Wednesday, October 15, 2008, 4:00 p.m. in the HR Conference Room. Second was by Regina Washinawatok. All those in favor of motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 5 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 1 absent (B. Kaquatosh).**

Meeting in recess.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda Peters, recorder  
Chairman's Office